



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3065/Telephone 547-7000

Charles K. Djou

Councilmember, District IV

Chair, Zoning Committee

Phone: (808) 547-7004 / Facsimile: (808) 523-4220

Email cdjou@honolulu.gov

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For More Information, Please Contact:

Councilmember Charles K. Djou

Phone: (808) 478-0006

MAYOR ABSENCE BILL PASSES FINAL READING AS MAYOR HARRIS DELIVERS SPEECH IN KANSAS

Today, the Honolulu City Council passed Bill 45, introduced by Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki to Hawaii Kai), requiring the Mayor to give notice to the City Clerk whenever he leaves Hawaii. Under the City Charter the Managing Director, an un-elected official, holds executive power in the absence of the Mayor. Ironically, as the Council voted to pass Bill 45, Mayor Harris was delivering a speech at Kansas State University.

In 2004 to date, Mayor Jeremy Harris spent nearly half of his working days away from Hawaii on trips to the mainland and several foreign countries without prior notice to the public. "The Mayor has every right to travel, but the people of Honolulu have a right to know when the Mayor leaves an un-elected official in charge of the City," stated Djou. "Asking for notice is simply good public policy and not an unreasonable request."

Earlier this year in his State of the City address, Harris stated, "I have 1,000 more dreams to make this city great, enough to fill two lifetimes, and I have 337 days to bring to fruition those that I can. I pledge to you tonight that I will make every one of those days count. This city deserves every last hour of devotion." This year, Mayor Harris has been making those last days count from far away destinations including Hong Kong, Australia, Sweden, Chile and Saipan.

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